




Private Well Owner Tip Sheet

September 2015

Have a question?

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U.S. EPA invests in household well owners

A new U.S. Environmental Protection Agency grant is underway that will provide \$1.7 million in private well owner training and assistance through January 2017.

In addition to private well owners, grant projects also target environmental health professionals, sanitarians, and water quality professionals who work with well owners.

Grant projects will include:

- Online lessons and webinars
- Training workshops
- Conference presentations
- A printed and e-version private well owner's manual
- A guide to financing private water wells video
- The wellcare® Hotline
- A well owner mobile app
- A home water well assessment tool
- A water well emergency response guide
- A summary of state private well

Well construction: Getting a properly constructed water well system can be intimidating. WellOwner.org takes the mystery out of this process in its "Water Well Basics" section by breaking it down into:

- What is a drilled well?
- Well system components
- Planning for a well
- Drilling methods
- State well construction agencies
- Finished well checklist.

A separate section, "Finding a Contractor", provides guidance on finding a contractor through a state's registration or licensing program as well as through [WellOwner.org's](http://WellOwner.org/s) Contractor Lookup service. This section also provides guidelines for written contracts.

Well maintenance: "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," yet when it comes to water well system maintenance many well owners are clueless about prudent well maintenance practices. WellOwner.org breaks down maintenance as follows:

- Annual maintenance checkups
- Homeowner's checklist
- Residential well cleaning
- Common maintenance issues of low flow, low water pressure, abandoned wells, and iron bacteria.

This section also has a maintenance best practices document for well owners developed by groundwater professionals.

Water quality and testing: Testing is crucial to determining water quality problems. These WellOwner.org sections provide guidance

regulations

- Well owner FAQs.

Stay tuned to your monthly *Private Well Owner Tip Sheet* and the National Ground Water Association's (NGWA's) WellOwner.org for when and how these offerings become available. In addition to NGWA, grant partners include the Rural Community Assistance Partnership, University of Illinois Water Survey, the Water Systems Council, and the National Environmental Health Association.



WellOwner.org gets better

Over the past year, NGWA has researched issues associated with motivating private well owners to act to protect their water quality and health. Such actions include water testing and, if necessary, water treatment, well maintenance, and/or groundwater protection.

Key well owner motivators are simplicity and convenience as they relate to water testing and subsequent action. In these regards, WellOwner.org is in a unique position to help.

The website "connects the dots" for well owners so they can make decisions about water testing and addressing any water quality risks. WellOwner.org has a significant reach into the private well owner community. In the past eight years, there have been more than 1 million unique users to NGWA's WellOwner.org and more than 3 million pageviews.

Following are some of the ways the website helps makes decisions simple and convenient for private well owners:

on:

- What to test for and when
- How to determine contaminants of local concern
- How to get a test
- How to interpret your test results
- Factors that contribute to water quality problems.

Link to WellOwner.org from your website or social media: If you are someone who works with private well owners, please let them know about the website. Feel free to post it and share it.



Mark your calendar for March 6-12, 2016

This is the nation's premier groundwater recognition event. Whether you're a private well owner or a state or local official, get involved! Visit NGWA.org/AwarenessWeek and use our resources to promote groundwater awareness.

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www.wellowner.org
Informing consumers about groundwater and water wells.

National Ground Water Association

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